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POSSIBLE INDICATIONS RELATING TO THE BERLIN AND GERMAN SITUATION

RECEIVED IN THE PERIOD 24-30 AUGUST

Political and Diplomatic

23 August - Soviet note to the Western powers protests "provocative" actions in Germany and accuses Western powers of using air corridors to transport spies and saboteurs to Berlin. (FBIS 37, 23 August 1961) ^{25X1X6}

24 August - [REDACTED] Polish officials and employees departing the Polish Military Mission in West Berlin were noted carrying bulky packages and full briefcases at the close of business on 24 August. The source considers that this is a possible indication that the Poles are removing files from the mission in the eventuality it will be closed.

24 August - An analysis of a 24 August Neues Deutschland editorial suggests to the US mission in Berlin that the East German regime may now be willing to enforce the onerous provisions of the new labor code and may in fact be preparing to make even more demands on the workers. The editorial criticizes free time on Saturday, long a customary prerogative of construction workers, and praises overtime work. (Berlin 311, 24 August 1961)

24 August - Lightner, Deputy Chief of Mission in Berlin, states that despite the Vice President's visit and the move of the battle group to Berlin, it will be difficult to sustain West Berlin morale for the long run if the city remains divided by a concrete barrier. Despite the fact that the city had been split administratively for many years, there had in essence been no division in human terms and to West Berliners and to the German people generally, Berlin had survived as a symbol of hope for eventual reunification. He states that even in recent years West Berlin's working force has been sustained only by an influx of refugees from the East and that new blood will continue to be needed, and it can now come only from the West. (Berlin 302, 24 August 1961)

24 August - East Bloc journalist stationed East Berlin sought Western colleague West Berlin and stated. "Ulbricht has obviously lost his head and overdoing things very badly." Soviet Union "very unhappy" East Germans and remarked Soviet Union probably have to step in restrain East Germans from additional aggressive action. [REDACTED] (SECRET)

24 August - UPI Paris Diplomatic Correspondent conversation Kuznetsov, USSR Press Attache Paris, latter made 3 points. 1) USSR expected negotiations begin initiative of West. 2) After treaty signed between GDR and USSR, Soviet forces be stationed about 100 meters inside GDR in order give GDR armed support event controversy over access. 3) USSR better prepared for war than West and not at all hesitant take military measures if necessary. (Paris, POLTO 207, 24 August 1961, CONFIDENTIAL)

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25 August - Walter Ulbricht declared Western occupation of West Berlin must be terminated and East Germany given full authority over all land, water and air access to Berlin. East Germany would continue recognize Soviet control over Allied military traffic to West Berlin, until a peace treaty was signed, but specifically omitted any reference to civil air traffic. [REDACTED]

28 August - Pravda repeated the line that "the socialist states are unyielding in their determination to attain a peaceful settlement with Germany this year, and nothing will prevent them from carrying this out. Should the Western powers continue to avoid the conclusion of the German peace treaty, then the interested states will themselves sign a peace treaty with the GDR." (FBIS)

Military Planning and Mobilization

Early August - Soviet officers released in 1960 allegedly recalled to army in Vilnius, Lithuania. [REDACTED]

23 August - Ulbricht states Russian troops on alert since 13 August. (FBIS 60, 23 August 1961)

23 August - East German authorities call for 30,000 volunteers. Conscription if quota not reached. (USAREUR SX 5034, 23 August 1961)

23 August - East German Border Security Police increased by call-up of reservists on 16 August. (USAREUR SX 5034)

24 August - Possible six-month extension of term of service for East German army personnel. [REDACTED]

25 August - Soviets increase reconnaissance of East-West German border. (USAREUR, SX5085, 25 August 1961)

25 August - First indication East German army has CBR offensive capability. CBR units previously engaged only in defensive operations. (USAREUR, SX 5089, 25 August 1961)

25 August - Possible training area for Warsaw Pact forces in Doupov, Czechoslovakia. Area occupied, directed and supervised by Soviet troops. (USAREUR SX 5061, 25 August 1961)

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Troop Movements

26 August - One train of Czech troops reportedly crossed into East Germany recently. (USAREUR SX 5061)

23 August - Some Rumanian troops allegedly in Poland on maneuvers. (ARMA, Bucharest, CX 150, 26 August 1961)

25 August - US Arma observations, Bulgaria, tend to discount any significant Bulgarian troop moves toward Greek border. (ARMA, Bulgaria, UR-3, 25 August 1961)

Air

25 August - Soviet Ambassador Smirnov says best solution Berlin air corridor problem be transfer all civilian traffic to Communist controlled Schoenfeld. "If this transfer is not undertaken the same controls must be established for civilian air transport which now exist with the railway, the autobahn and waterway transports," he said in speech American Club. Declared West no legal treaty right fly civilians to Berlin. "Up to now we have tolerated these flights but we have protested many times against their misuse." (AP 154, 25 August 1961)



Security and Paramilitary Forces



27 August 1961)

Logistics and Transportation

22 August - Soviet Headquarters in Karlshorst is coordinating countermeasures in event West Berlin attempts to gain control of East German-owned railroad installations located in West Berlin. [REDACTED]

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Additional Items

- 29 Aug - In activation of three Border Security Police (BSP) brigades along E. German-Czech border and transfer of their personnel to BSP brigades along East-West German borders and around Berlin has been reported from many sources. (CINCUSAREUR SX-5131, 281747Z Aug (DAIN 144677) 29 August 1961, SECRET)
- 29 Aug - USAREUR comments possibility exists that Polish Internal Security Forces (KBW) may have been alerted for Berlin support but doubtful they have been sent unless in connection with Warsaw Pact exercise which would include Polish forces. (CINCUSAREUR SX-5131, 281747Z Aug (DAIN 144677) 29 August 1961, SECRET)
- 29 Aug - Sample of new uniform for East German Security Alert Police (SAP) is similar in color and design to uniform of EGA. Possible BSP also issued similar uniform. Uniform changes further evidence that SAP and BSP may be placed under jurisdiction of EGA. (CINCUSAREUR SX-5131, 281747Z Aug (DAIN 144677) 29 August 1961, SECRET)
- 25X1X6
- 28 Aug - The Soviet note on the air corridors [REDACTED] is the decisive step for the introduction of steps to change the air traffic to West Berlin which have been the subject of internal discussions for some time. The definitive separation of commercial and military air traffic will occur only after the remaining rights reserved by the USSR have been turned over to the GDR. At that time the GDR can make full use of its sovereign rights. [The GDR will then inform Western commercial air lines that the legal basis for scheduled and charter flights no longer exists. New mutual agreements must be reached within an appropriate time so that traffic need not be stopped. The immediate interest is not in stopping military air traffic but in imposing certain restrictions. If the Western allies do not heed the Soviet note on air traffic, serious intervention in Allied Berlin air traffic will occur in the next few days. The following steps might be taken: A. The Soviet representative in the Berlin Air Safety Center may refuse permission for certain aircraft. B. Certain aircraft may be forced to land in the GDR. C. Certain aircraft may be forced to return through military action by Soviet planes. D. The Soviet representative on BASC may withdraw on temporary or permanent basis even before the signing of a peace treaty. [REDACTED] ✓
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- 20 Aug - A TASS correspondent [REDACTED] stated to a reliable American observer that the decision to close out East Berlin had been delayed until the last possible moment despite repeated urgings by Ulbricht. The rising tide of refugees finally made it imperative, however embarrassing. He foresaw the signing of a treaty sometime in November. Control of access would be passed to the GDR, but he added, "I do not believe the GDR will

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try to force you into anything that offends your prestige. The procedure will be rather deliberate and very correct." [REDACTED] ✓

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30 Aug - On 24 August a Soviet diplomat in East Berlin made following points considered to be in line with current Soviet sabre-rattling campaign: Soviet long range aim is neutralization of Germany, no Western rights as yet affected, if no solution forthcoming the separate Peace Treaty will be signed on short notice, with no forthcoming agreement. Soviets are prepared to block West German access to and from Berlin, Soviets discount possibility of successful American airlift, if West Germany receives command control over nuclear weapons Soviets will initiate hostilities. [REDACTED] ✓

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